

Eco-Rapid Transit, formerly known as the Orangeline Development Authority, is a joint powers authority (JPA) created to pursue development of a transit system that moves as rapidly as possible, uses grade separation as appropriate, and is environmentally friendly and energy efficient. The system is designed to enhance and increase transportation options for riders of this region utilizing safe, advanced transit technology to expand economic growth that maximizes ridership in Southern California. The Authority is composed of the following public agencies:

City of Artesia

City of Bell

City of Bell Gardens

City of Bellflower

City of Cudahy

City of Downey

City of Glendale

City of Huntington Park

City of Maywood

City of Paramount

City of South Gate

City of Vernon

Burbank-Glendale-Pasadena  
Airport Authority

Chair

Zareh Sinanyan  
President

Hollywood Burbank Airport  
Mayor

City of Glendale

Vice-Chair

Pedro Aceituno  
Council Member

City of Bell Gardens

Secretary

Karina Macias  
Council Member

City of Huntington Park

Treasurer

Ali Sajjad Taj  
Council Member

City of Artesia

Internal Auditor

Cristian Markovich  
Council Member

City of Cudahy

Executive Director

Michael R. Kodama

General Counsel

Teresa L. Highsmith

Ex-Officio

William Rawlings  
City Manager Representative

## AGENDA REPORT

TO: Members of Eco-Rapid Transit

FROM: Michael Kodama, Executive Director

DATE: September 19, 2018

SUBJECT: **UPDATE AND/OR ACTION REGARDING METRO SUPPORTED APPLICATIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES GRANTS**

Public comments on items on the agenda will be taken at the time the item is called and are limited to 3 minutes per speaker

### ISSUE

Last month Manjeet Ranu, talked about an opportunity to move forward with land use planning. Eco-Rapid Transit would like to work with Metro to apply for a Sustainable Infrastructure grant for the corridor. This is part of our joint effort for Planning and Predevelopment in the corridor. Staff would like to request your assistance in securing a project letter of commitment from our members.

### BACKGROUND

Metro has arranged to have grant writing consultants be available to help write grants for future opportunities for the cities and Eco-Rapid Transit. Jenna Hornstock, Metro Executive Officer sent a notice letting our members in the corridor know about this opportunity. This is very time sensitive - **applications are due November 2, 2018.**

Eco-Rapid Transit is looking at the feasibility of applying for a corridor grant. It is proposed that this application also include our members, Metro and Smart Growth America. You can find more about SGA at <https://smartgrowthamerica.org>. They have worked across the country leveraging transit to build community.

We understand that the **grant requires a 11% local match** which could be \$114,000 spread amongst all the partners and can be an in-kind match (staff time, facilities, copying etc.). We are not sure on the details for this yet.

This proposed grant will build upon the work completed during the Corridor TOD Strategic Implementation Plan study and be one of the first steps in the implementation strategy.

Jenna Hornstock of Metro is working with us and submitted a Metro Board Box (attached), letting the Metro Board know that we were moving forward in the grant process.



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## RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board:

1. Discuss information presented and offer action items; and/or
2. Receive and file the item



**Metro**

Los Angeles County  
Metropolitan Transportation Authority

One Gateway Plaza  
Los Angeles, CA 90012-2952

213.922.2000 Tel  
metro.net

**September 5, 2018**

**TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**THROUGH: PHILLIP A. WASHINGTON** *PAW*  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

**FROM: THERESE W. MCMILLAN** *TW*  
**CHIEF PLANNING OFFICER**

**SUBJECT: GRANT ASSISTANCE FOR WEST SANTA ANA BRANCH  
CITIES IN SUPPORT OF TOD STRATEGIC  
IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

**ISSUE**

In October 2016, Metro, in partnership with the City of South Gate and the Eco-Rapid Transit Joint Powers Authority (JPA) was awarded a \$2 million TOD Planning Grant from the FTA to develop a TOD Strategic Implementation Plan (SIP) for the WSAB Corridor. Work is underway on the SIP, with completion estimated in early 2019. However, staff has identified an immediate opportunity to support WSAB cities to seek grant funding to implement the recommendations generated in the SIP. This Board Box is to notify the Board of Directors that the Countywide Planning & Development department is offering grant assistance to WSAB cities to support implementation of the anticipated recommendations in the TOD SIP. This immediate grant assistance opportunity can pilot a longer term concept of providing grant assistance for TOC activities. If successful, it may be considered as an approach for other cities in other corridors that are similarly positioned as the WSAB, at this point in time.

**BACKGROUND**

The WSAB Transit Corridor extends 20 miles from the City of Artesia to Union Station. It consists of low levels of existing development, disadvantaged populations, and some of California's most impacted environmental justice census tracts. The 13 cities along the WSAB corridor would be well-served by a unified TOD strategy to leverage the investment of future rail infrastructure, provide economic development opportunities, and ensure considerations for equitable and sustainable growth are included in this process. The TOD SIP is

well-positioned to provide an implementation strategy that considers both corridor-wide and station-area specific opportunities.

The TOD SIP is part of a number of investments and technical support that Metro is providing to WSAB cities in the spirit of a February 2016 Metro Board motion, which directed staff to allocate funding to pursue Sustainable Transit-Oriented Communities (TOC) predevelopment and planning activities for the WSAB Transit Corridor. WSAB cities have received over \$1.5 million from Metro's TOD Planning Grant, on top of the \$2 million FTA TOD SIP grant. Metro has also funded Eco-Rapid over \$250,000 to support planning studies along the WSAB corridor.

The TOD SIP will be completed in early 2019; however, in late August the State released guidelines for the next round of SB1's Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Program, which is administered by Caltrans. Grant applications are due in November 2018. These grant funds are complementary to the TOD SIP work and are a good opportunity to get an early start on implementation work that we anticipate will be part of the final plan. To take advantage of this opportunity, staff has identified existing consultant grant writing capacity to offer grant writing assistance to up to six cities that are ready to develop grant applications. We are also exploring a strategic partnership with Smart Growth America to provide technical assistance to Eco-Rapid and the cities, as well as bring national best practices into the work effort. Metro staff offered this grant writing assistance to the WSAB cities earlier today.

While there are 13 cities on the WSAB alignment, it is not likely that all cities will be able to dedicate the staff time required to complete a grant with a short turnaround. In addition, the SB1 Planning Grant requires that cities are up to date and compliant with their General Plan Housing Elements, which renders several cities ineligible at this time. To the extent that staff receives more than six requests for grant writers, we will develop an alternative strategy.

Apart from this immediate grant opportunity, there are several additional grant programs that could support implementation of the recommendations in the TOD SIP, along with future rounds of the SB1 Planning Grant. Staff has informed the WSAB cities that we will be procuring a grant writer that can provide dedicated grant writing assistance to WSAB cities to pursue funding for TOD SIP implementation activities over the next three years. Staff will develop a simple application and vetting process for future grant writing assistance and launch a pilot TOC Grant Assistance program.

## **NEXT STEPS**

Staff will provide grant writing assistance to up to six cities that are eligible and ready to apply for the SB1 Planning grant due November 2, 2018. Staff will also begin the procurement process to select a grant writer to provide additional grant

writing assistance for the next three years, and will develop a simple application and vetting process for this grant writing assistance.

For additional questions or clarifications, please contact Jenna Hornstock, Executive Officer, Transit Oriented Communities, at (213) 922-7437 or [hornstockj@metro.net](mailto:hornstockj@metro.net).